

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of transporting and storing a wind turbine blade comprising:
providing a wind turbine blade including a blade root having a longitudinal central axis and a blade tip, where the wind turbine blade curves in an unloaded state in such a manner that the blade presents a substantially concave face and a substantially convex face, and such that said blade tip is spaced apart from the longitudinal central axis of said blade root; and root,
~~wherein~~
prestressing the wind turbine blade ~~is prestressed by means of prestressing means~~ at a distance from the blade root in such a manner that the blade tip is brought closer to the longitudinal central axis of the blade root.
2. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the wind turbine blade is prestressed to such an extent that ~~the~~ a distance between the blade tip and the longitudinal central axis of the blade root does not exceed twice ~~the~~ a radius of the blade root.
3. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the prestressing means include a counterpart extending parallel to the blade, said prestressing means further including prestressing members for forcing the substantially concave face of the wind turbine blade towards the counterpart.

4. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 3, wherein the counterpart is resilient and curved and is positioned parallel to the wind turbine blade in such a manner that said counterpart curves in a direction opposite the wind turbine blade, whereby the counterpart and the wind turbine blade are forced towards each other by means of the prestressing members.

5. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 3, wherein the counterpart is substantially rectilinear and substantially rigid, and that the wind turbine blade is forced towards the counterpart by means of the prestressing members.

6. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 3, wherein the counterpart include abutment members with a surface corresponding to the surface of the blade and preventing said wind turbine blade from being damaged.

7. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 4, wherein the resilient counterpart is formed of a second curved wind turbine blade upended in relation to the first blade, whereby the roots of the two blades are secured in respective first frames, and whereby the tips of the two blades are secured in respective second frames, and where said first frame of said first blade and said second frame of said second blade are secured to each other, and where said second frame of said first blade and said first frame of said second blade are subsequently forced towards each other and secured to each other.

8. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the prestressing means include a cable secured to the blade at a position adjacent to the blade tip and positioned so as to extend along

the convex face of the blade, said cable being tightened in such a manner that the blade tip is arranged closer to the longitudinal central axis of the blade root.

9. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 8, wherein blade tip fittings for the blade are fastened adjacent to the blade tip, the cable being secured to said fittings.

10. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 8, wherein cable guide fittings are fastened between the blade tip and the blade root, the cable abutting said cable guide fittings at a distance from the surface of the blade to ensure the effect of a compressive force component perpendicular to the convex face of the blade.

11. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 9, wherein the blade tip fittings and the cable guide fittings are inter-connected by means of hinges with a distance beam ensuring a constant distance between said blade tip fittings and said cable guide fittings.

12. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the blade is positioned with the substantially concave face facing downwards and that at least the blade root is supported, the prestressing means being formed by ballast means positioned on or in the blade at a distance from the blade root.

13. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising transporting the prestressed wind turbine ~~wherein the blade is transported in its prestressed state by means of~~ utilizing a tractor unit and a trailer or semi-trailer, formed integral with a counterpart towards which the blade is forced.

14. (withdrawn) A wind turbine blade including a blade root and a blade tip, where the wind turbine blade curves in such a manner that the wind turbine blade in the unloaded state presents a substantially concave face and a substantially convex face, and such that said blade tip is spaced apart from the longitudinal central axis of said blade root, wherein the blade is provided with inner ballast tanks at a distance from the blade root, said tanks being adapted to being filled with ballast material, in such a manner that the blade tip is brought closer to the longitudinal central axis of the blade root due to gravity on the ballast, when the blade is positioned with the substantially concave face facing downwards and is supported adjacent to the blade root and optionally the blade tip.

15. (withdrawn) An apparatus for transporting and storing a wind turbine blade including a blade root and a blade tip, where the wind turbine blade curves in its unloaded state in such a manner that the blade presents a substantially concave face and a substantially convex face, and such that said blade tip is spaced apart from the longitudinal central axis of said blade root, wherein said apparatus includes prestressing means for prestressing the blade at a distance from the blade root in such a manner that the blade tip is brought closer to the longitudinal central axis of the blade root.

16. (withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the prestressing means include a counterpart adapted to being arranged parallel to the blade, said prestressing means further including prestressing members for forcing the substantially convex face of the blade towards the counterpart.

17. (withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising root fittings adapted so as to allow a blade root to be fixedly supported thereon.

18. (withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the counterpart is in the form of a trailer or a semi-trailer adapted to being pulled by a tractor unit.

19. (previously amended) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the distance between the blade tip and the longitudinal central axis of the blade root does not exceed the radius of the blade root.

20. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 12, wherein the prestressing means comprises inner ballast tanks provided in the blade at a distance from the blade root, said tanks being adapted to being filled with ballast material, in such a manner that the blade tip is brought closer to the longitudinal central axis of the blade root due to gravity on the ballast, when the blade is positioned with the substantially concave face facing downwards and is supported adjacent to the blade root and optionally the blade tip.

21. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 12, wherein the blade is transported in its prestressed state by a tractor unit and a trailer or semi-trailer and wherein the ballast means comprises the trailer or semi-trailer formed integral with a counterpart towards which the blade is forced.